



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

September 29, 2008

RODOLFO-BARRON-ARZOLA CONVICTED OF ALIEN SMUGGLING

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that on September 24, 2008, Rodolfo Barron-Arzola, a citizen of Mexico was sentenced to 87 months in prison for his September 24, 2008, conviction for conspiracy to transport aliens between November 1, 2003 through May 23, 2007. Barron-Arzola was held responsible at sentencing for the death of Gerardo Cruz-Nil who was killed during the time of the conspiracy when a multi-vehicle alien smuggling load attempted to evade arrest by Border Patrol Agents.

During the investigation, it was shown, that after an attempt to flee arrest, the vehicle carrying the aliens rolled over and wrecked. The driver, Mr. Nill died as a result. Four other passengers received serious injuries and were airlifted to San Antonio. The government showed that Barron-Arzola was responsible for supplying these aliens from Mexico and knew the *modus operandi* of the smugglers to evade and crash out. As a result, he was held responsible for the death and given an enhancement at sentencing. He was also ordered to pay \$19, 553.18 in restitution for unpaid expenses incurred by the treating hospitals and ambulance services.

This case was investigated by Agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement Eagle Pass and Del Rio and was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Rick Bennett.

#####